

on 27th April 1969 from a forest in Puri district and the male on 22nd February 1971 from the forests of Simuli Pahar, Mayurbhanj district by the D.F.O., Puri Division and A.C.F., National Park, Joshipur respecti-

vely and were sent to the Nandankanan Biological Park. Unfortunately the female died on 26.5.74. The male is now being kept with 4 specimens of star tortoise *G. elegans* (Schoepff).

ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
34A & B, SASHIBHUSAN DE ST.,
CALCUTTA-12.

S. BISWAS

NANDANKANAN BIOLOGICAL PARK,
DIST. CUTTACK, ORISSA.

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10. HEARING ABILITY OF BROWNTREE SNAKE (*DENDRELAPHIS TRISTIS*)

While studying the feeding behaviour of Barbets (*Megalaima*) on 2.xi.77 at Borivli National Park, I noticed an interesting phenomenon. I was sitting in my bush hide under a big *Ficus mysorensis* and observing Barbets feeding on *Ficus* receptacles. At 10.05 hrs. when I looked at the ground I saw a Browntree snake lying on an arched log at a distance of about $2\frac{1}{2}$ m from me. The snake was about a metre in length and its anterior portion was erected up at an angle of 45° . In the meantime when we (the snake and I) were looking at each

other an aeroplane's sound was heard. As soon as the sound was heard the snake lifted up its head, as if trying to see the source of the sound, making an angle of 90° and remained in this position till the sound faded; then it resumed its former position. We were both situated under the thick foliage of the *Ficus* tree and there was no question of sighting the plane or its shadow passing over our head. Nothing except the sound of the plane was the cause for the snake to change its position. I think it has good hearing capacity.

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